

SAC
1. A method for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote
2 electronic content based on a single query, the method comprising:

3 receiving a single query that includes at least one search term;
4 comparing the received search term automatically in response to the single query with
5 indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result and
6 comparing the received search term with electronic content that is stored on a remote device
7 to derive a second result;

8 combining the first result and the second result into an amalgamated result; and
9 displaying the amalgamated result.

1 2. The method as in claim 1 wherein the local device includes a personal
computing device.

1 3. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term
2 includes simultaneously comparing the received search term with the indexed electronic
3 content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

1 4. The method as in claim 1 wherein the amalgamated result is displayed without
2 indicating whether the amalgamated result was derived from the first result or the second
3 result.

1 5. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term
2 includes comparing based on a single input action by a user.

1 6. The method as in claim 5 wherein comparing the received search term
2 automatically in response to the single input action by the user includes performing a first
3 comparison of the received search term with the indexed electronic content stored on the
4 local device and, at a separate time, performing a second comparison of the received search
5 term with the electronic content stored on the remote device

1 7. The method as in claim 5 wherein comparing against content stored on the
2 local device and content stored on the remote device based on a single action received from a
3 user is performed automatically in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to

4 compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local
5 device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

1 8. The method as in claim 5 wherein comparing against content stored on the
2 local device and content stored on the remote device based on a single action received from a
3 user is performed with the user pre-selecting to compare the received search term with both
4 the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on
5 the remote device.

1 9. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term
2 includes comparing the received search term, in response to the single query, with indexed
3 electronic content stored on a first local device and with indexed electronic content stored on
4 a second local device, wherein the first local device and the second local device are
5 networked in a local area network.

1 10. The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an index based on the
2 electronic content stored on the local device, wherein comparing the received search term
3 includes comparing the received search term with the index.

1 11. The method as in claim 10 wherein creating the index includes creating the
2 index at an event pre-designated by a user of the local device.

1 12. The method as in claim 10 wherein creating the index includes creating the
2 index on-demand in response to an action by a user of the local device.

1 13. The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an inverted index based
2 on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein comparing the received search
3 term includes comparing the received search term with the inverted index.

1 14. The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an index based on the
2 electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search term
3 includes comparing the received search term with the index.

1 15. The method as in claim 14 further comprising creating a local index based on
2 the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search
3 term includes comparing the received search term with the local index.

1 16. The method as in claim 14 further comprising creating a local inverted index
2 based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received
3 search term includes comparing the received search term with the local inverted index.

1 17. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term
2 includes performing a single comparison of the received search term with both the indexed
3 electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote
4 device.

1 18. The method as in claim 1 further comprising, in response to an action of a user
2 of the local device, designating at least one type of indexed electronic content stored on the
3 local device for comparison with the received search term.

1 19. The method as in claim 1 further comprising, in response to an action of a user
2 of the local device, designating at least one file location of the indexed electronic content
3 stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

1 20. A computer program stored on a computer readable medium or a propagated
2 signal for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content
3 based on a single query, comprising:

4 a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a single query that
5 includes at least one search term;

6 a comparing code segment that causes the computer to compare the received search
7 term automatically in response to the single query with indexed electronic content that is
8 stored on a local device to derive a first result and to compare the received search term with
9 electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result;

10 a combining code segment that causes the computer to combine the first result and the
11 second result into an amalgamated result; and

12 a displaying code segment that causes the computer to display the amalgamated
13 result.

1 21. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the local device includes a
2 personal computing device.

1 22. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment
2 causes the computer to simultaneously compare the received search term with the indexed
3 electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote
4 device.

1 23. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the amalgamated result is
2 displayed without indicating whether the amalgamated result was derived from the first result
3 or the second result.

1 24. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment
2 causes the computer to compare based on a single input action by a user.

1 25. The computer program of claim 24 wherein the comparing code segment
2 causes the computer to perform a first comparison of the received search term with the
3 indexed electronic content stored on the local device and, at a separate time, perform a
4 second comparison of the received search term with the electronic content stored on the
5 remote device.

1 26. The computer program of claim 24 wherein the comparing code segment that
2 causes the computer to compare against content stored on the local device and content stored
3 on the remote device based on a single action received from a user causes the computer to
4 perform automatically in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to cause the
5 computer to compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content
6 stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

1 27. The computer program of claim 24 wherein the comparing code segment that
2 causes the computer to compare against content stored on the local device and content stored
3 on the remote device based on a single action received from a user causes the computer to
4 perform with the user pre-selecting to cause the computer to compare the received search
5 term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic
6 content stored on the remote device.

1 28. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment
2 causes the computer to compare the received search term, in response to the single query,
3 with indexed electronic content stored on a first local device and with indexed electronic
4 content stored on a second local device, wherein the first local device and the second local
5 device are networked in a local area network.

1 29. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code
2 segment that causes the computer to create an index based on the electronic content stored on
3 the local device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the
4 received search term with the index.

1 30. The computer program of claim 29 wherein the index creating code segment
2 causes the computer to create the index at an event pre-designated by a user of the local
3 device.

1 31. The computer program of claim 29 wherein the index creating code segment
2 causes the computer to create the index on-demand in response to an action by a user of the
3 local device.

1 32. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code
2 segment that causes the computer to create an inverted index based on the electronic content
3 stored on the local device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to
4 compare the received search term with the inverted index.

1 33. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code
2 segment that causes the computer to create an index based on the electronic content stored on
3 the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the
4 received search term with the index.

1 34. The computer program of claim 33 further comprising a local index creating
2 code segment that causes the computer to create a local index based on the electronic content
3 stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to
4 compare the received search term with the local index.

1 35. The computer program of claim 33 further comprising a local index creating
2 code segment that causes the computer to create a local inverted index based on the
3 electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes
4 the computer to compare the received search term with the local inverted index.

1 36. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment
2 causes the computer to perform a single comparison of the received search term with both the
3 indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the
4 remote device.

1 37. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising, in response to an
2 action of a user of the local device, a designating code segment that causes the computer to
3 designate at least one type of indexed electronic content stored on the local device for
4 comparison with the received search term.

1 38. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising, in response to an
2 action of a user of the local device, a designating code segment that causes the computer to
3 designate at least one file location of the indexed electronic content stored on the local device
4 for comparison with the received search term.

add PJS